



Borough of East Retford.

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1941

BY

**W. C. DAVIDSON,**

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,

**Medical Officer of Health.**

**Retford :**

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Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK BUILDINGS,  
MARKET PLACE,  
RETFORD.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses  
of the Borough of East Retford.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1941. Owing to present conditions the report is brief and contains only an outline of the work done during the year. It has been compiled in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 2614.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. CAMPBELL DAVIDSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

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Area ... .. 4,657 acres.

\*Registrar-General's estimate of Resident

Population mid-year 1940 ... 15,900

\*Number of inhabited houses ... .. 4,413

Rateable Value (1st April, 1941) ... .. £93,529

Sum represented by a penny rate ... .. £368/14/8

\*It has been considered inadvisable meantime to  
publish later figures.

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## Vital Statistics.

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### LIVE BIRTHS—

		Total	M	F
Legitimate	... ..	220	123	97
Illegitimate	... ..	19	9	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 14.12

Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 population .. 14.2

### STILL BIRTHS—

		Total	M	F
Legitimate	... ..	10	6	4
Illegitimate	... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil

Rate per 1,000 TOTAL births ... .. 41.84

Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... .. 0.59

Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales ... .. 0.51

**DEATHS—**

	Total	M	F
	229	124	105
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			13.53
Death Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales			12.9

\*Death Rate adjusted in accordance with the Registrar General's Areal Comparability Factor—not available.

\*The preparation and issue of the Areal Comparability Factor is being suspended under present conditions.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY—**

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ... ..	Nil
Other maternal causes ... ..	Nil

**INFANTILE MORTALITY—**

	Total	M	F
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year ...	16	8	8
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year ...	4	2	2
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births ... ..			74.35
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			64.00
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			210.53

**MORTALITY—**

The deaths include those of 34 persons in institutions outside the Borough, 21 males and 13 females.

The above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar-General.



The causes of death were:

Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	3
Diphtheria ... ..	14
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	10
Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	3
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	1
Influenza . ... ..	2
Measles ... ..	3
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus and of uterus ...	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum .. ...	3
Cancer of breast .. ...	5
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	17
Diabetes .. ...	1
Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	22
Heart disease ... ..	27
Other diseases of circulatory system ... ..	17
Bronchitis ... ..	12
Pneumonia ... ..	11
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	3
Other digestive diseases ... ..	6
Nephritis ... ..	8
Premature birth ... ..	3
Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases ... ..	5
Road traffic accidents ... ..	2
Other violent causes ... ..	4
All other causes ... ..	40

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

No important changes in the provisions of functioning of health services occurred in the area during the year.

## Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic.

No. of sessions held during 1941 .. ...	352
No. of sessions attended by the Medical Officer ... ..	332
No. of examinations made (children) ... ..	2794
No. of examinations made (mothers) ... ..	2382

ERRATUM.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for the Borough of East Retford for 1941.

Page 4, last Paragraph - "Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic "

No of sessions held during 1941 should read 252 instead of 352

No. of sessions attended by the Medical Officer should read 232 instead of 332.

Page 5, first paragraph:-

Average number of children and mothers examined per session should read  
22 instead of 16.

Public Health Dept.,  
Retford, Notts.  
15th February 1943.





Average number of children and mothers examined	
per session ...	16

No. of individual mothers attended Centre ... ..	459
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No. of visits paid by children to the Centre:

Under 1 year ... ..	6042
1 to 5 years ... ..	4402
Total ... ..	10444

No. of individual children attended the Centre ... ..	1104
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No. of visits paid by mothers to Centre ... ..	1886
(Seen by Doctor)	

No. of visits paid by expectant mothers to Centre ..	2324
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No. of individual ante-natal cases attended:

Evacuees ... ..	534
Retford residents ... ..	148

No. of individual post-natal cases attended ... ..	13
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**Visits paid by Health Visitor to:**

(1) Children under 1 year of age ... ..	1575
(2) Children between 1 and 5 years ... ..	1562
Total ... ..	3137

**Services of a Consultant.**

During the year, 43 expectant and nursing mothers were referred for Mr. Stacey's opinion.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**Water Supply.**—Analysis of samples of water supplied by the Borough Water Undertaking were on the whole satisfactory.

**Sanitary Inspection.**—The work was well supervised by the Inspector and was efficiently carried out.

# PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total notified		
				South Ward	East Ward	West Ward
Scarlet Fever ...	12	10 [a]	...	6	1	5
Diphtheria ...	120	119 [a]	14	32	46	42
Pneumonia ...	41	...	6	11	12	18
Erysipelas ...	10	...	...	2	1	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	1 [b]	...	1	0	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	1 [a]	3	0	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	1	0	0
Measles... ..	684	...	3	188	164	332
Whooping Cough ...	57	...	...	15	6	36
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	24	10 [c]	10	7	8	9
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	1 [d] 1 [c]	3	1	9	5
Totals ...	970	143	39	264	248	458

[a] North Carlton Isolation Hospital.

[b] Jessop Hospital, Sheffield.

[c] Ransom Sanatorium, Rainworth.

[d] Children's Hospital, Sheffield.

# TUBERCULOSIS, 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1... 2 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
2... 3 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3... 4 ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
4... 5 ...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
5...10 ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1
10...15 ...	3	...	2	1	...	...	1	...
15...20 ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
20...35 ...	6	4	...	...	1	3	...	...
35...45 ...	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	...
45...65 ...	4	1	1	...	2	1	...	...
65 and over ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	17	7	6	9	5	5	1	2

# Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1941.

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Health Department,  
Retford.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my report on the work done during the year 1941.

53 complaints were received and the premises visited, nuisances being found in 51 cases.

101 informal notices asking for the abatement of nuisances were served, and in 11 cases these were followed up by statutory notices under the Public Health Acts. Owing to the war conditions it was not possible for owners to embark upon extensive repair schemes to houses, but vital repairs such as the weatherproofing of roofs, repairs to spoutings, drains and water closets have been carried out wherever necessary.

It was not necessary to institute legal proceedings for the abatement of any nuisance although in a few cases such proceedings were threatened before the work was carried out.

Some overcrowding exists in the town due to the war, and efforts were made to minimize this by housing exchange or by the re-billetting of evacuees. There was very little trouble with van dwellers, only four families being so housed. In one case a van dweller was evicted from a most unsuitable site.

There was no action during the year under the Housing Acts. We have a few houses subject to demolition orders which are still occupied, and some houses in clearance areas which are empty but not demolished.

**Food Inspection.:** This work, especially meat inspection, was very onerous during the year. The animals slaughtered in the Borough were:

Cattle, 3,335;	Sheep, 11,986;
Calves, 448;	Pigs, 886

All the carcasses and offals were inspected at the slaughter-houses, and the numbers found to be tuberculosis were:

Cattle, 752;	Pigs, 78;	Calves, 6.
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The total weight of the meat (carcasses and organs) condemned at the slaughter-houses was 100,226 lbs.

Many visits were paid to foodshops, both to inspect the premises and the food. Only in very few cases was it necessary to make any adverse comment upon the condition of either the premises or the utensils. The traders, often in difficult circumstances, are doing their best to keep their premises in a hygienic condition.

The foods condemned at the shops are listed below. The usual cause of condemnation was decomposition.

Mixed tinned foods, 86;	Rabbits, 130 lbs.;	Eggs, 2,841;
Cheese, 21 lbs.;	Imported beef, 96 lbs.;	Margarine,
26 lbs.;	Butter, 3 lbs.;	Lobsters, 20 lbs.;
	Bacon, 44 lbs.;	
	Biscuits, 11 lbs.	

Owing to the great pressure of other work the number of visits paid to cowsheds and dairies was less than usual. In my opinion there has been a serious decline in the standard of cleanliness on the farms, and the usual excuse is the labour shortage. While there is no doubt that the farmer's difficulties have greatly increased it is most unfortunate that the standard of milk hygiene should suffer.

During the year the Retford Co-operative Society, Ltd., decided to build a new dairy and to instal a larger plant for the pasteurisation of their milk. Work was commenced on the building but it was felt that some considerable delay would be caused in its completion by the war conditions.



**Infectious Disease:** Diphtheria, was very troublesome during the year. The cases were visited and removed to hospital on the day of notification, and all the contacts were swabbed by the Medical Officer or Nurse. I was able to assist in advising the public to have their children immunised against diphtheria, and in one part of the town house-to-house visits were made urging upon parents the great necessity for this precaution. No other infectious disease caused any serious trouble although quite a number of visits were made to the homes of children infected with scabies.

**Cleansing:** This important work, together with salvage, was done satisfactorily throughout the year. An experiment with female labour was tried for the cleansing of streets without much success, and in the autumn we were pleased to be able to secure sufficient male labour (mostly over 60 years of age) to be able to dispense with the women on this work. It is not a suitable job for women in my opinion.

The collection and sorting of waste material for salvage became a most serious matter and during the year it was decided to form a Women's Salvage Committee to help with this work. This was done and the Committee then organised street salvage stewards throughout the town. The effect of this was to cause a most substantial increase in the flow of salvage. During the year the sales of salvage amounted to 290 tons, of which 142 tons were paper, and 81 tons were crushed tins or scrap iron.

The collection of house refuse was carried out weekly throughout the year, and the refuse was disposed of by burying in tips. No serious difficulty arose in this work although there was a substantial increase in the cost, largely due to the higher rate paid to the contractor who provided the team labour.



## Summary of Visits.

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To slaughter-houses ... ..	540
To houses re infectious disease ... ..	310
To properties re nuisances ... ..	160
To properties under notice . ... ..	73
To offensive trades ... ..	18
To visits re rats ... ..	11
To dairies and cowsheds ... ..	55
To shop, etc., re food inspection ... ..	205
To factories and workshops ... ..	24
To air raid shelters ... ..	46
To visits re house refuse and salvage ... ..	497
To visits to mortuary .. ...	26
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	52
Total ...	2017

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK R. SMITH,  
Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.





